Chief Adviser greets the Nation on Bengali New Year’s Day

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said the New Year is an integral part of Bengali culture, tradition and livelihood from time immemorial. Mentioning that Pahela Baishakh brings reawakening and new impetus in the life of Bangalees, he said, "It is the day to embrace the new leaving behind the worn-out past, failings and ignominies." He also greeted all Bangladeshis living home and abroad and urged them, on this auspicious moment of the New Year, to contribute from their own positions, irrespective of religion, caste, party and opinion, towards establishing welfare-oriented democracy and enlightened society for the welfare of the people.
Expatriate Bangladeshis welcome New Bangla Year 1415

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC celebrated the arrival of New Bangla Year at the Embassy premises amidst fanfare and festivity. To welcome Bangla year 1415, a colourful programme was arranged at the Embassy on 13 April 2008. A large number of Bangladeshi expatriates gathered there with a joyous mood to embrace the ‘Nabobarsha’ and to taste various kinds of home made pithas and other ‘deshi’ foods prepared by the members of the Embassy family. Local cultural group “Rhythm”, dancers from “Jago Art Center” and members of the Embassy family performed in the cultural part of the day’s programme.

At the beginning of the program, Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir welcomed the guests to the programme and greeted “Shuvo Nabobarsha” to all Bangladeshis around the United States. In his speech, he underscored the enormous significance of Bangla Naba barsha as the rallying point for expression of our identity as a nation, which in fact has become the largest national festival encompassing people from all walks of life. He urged all expatriate Bangladeshis to nurture our cultural heritage and tradition, and called upon them to work unitedly for the peace and prosperity of the country. Touching on the celebration of New Year by other people in the neighbouring countries, Mr. Kabir broached the idea that Dhaka could be the centre of New Year celebration by the people of South Asia and South East Asian region.

Bangladeshi community people from greater Washington metro area and local American guests enjoyed the programme. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Rokeya Kabir, the lady wife of Bangladesh Ambassador.

UN SG accepts Bangladesh’s suggestion on global food crisis

Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon has accepted Bangladesh proposal for forming a Task Force to address the current global food crisis. The proposal, placed by Foreign Adviser Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury during the UNCTAD XII session in Accra, the capital of Ghana on 20-25 April 2008, was enthusiastically accepted by the UN.

Dhaka-Kolkata Train service begins after 43 yrs

Moitree Express, the much awaited train from Dhaka rolled into Chitpur rail-station in West Bengal on Monday (4/14) night to a warm welcome of people of both the neighbours. Bangladesh and India were connected by train after 43 years. Earlier, the first Dhaka-bound transnational train from Kolkata started its maiden run with 65 passengers reached Dhaka the same night. On-board visa checking facility is among the steps India and Bangladesh are considering to make travel by Maitree Express train service between Kolkata and Dhaka easier.

Engineers and Architects vow to work for the country

Engineers and Architects of Bangladeshi origin vowed to devote themselves for the welfare of Bangladesh. This was affirmed at a programme arranged to celebrate “Pahela Baishakh’ by the Bangladesh Association of Engineers and Architects (BAAEA) in New York on 27 April 2008.

During his remarks at the programme, Ambassador M. Humayun Kabir while appreciating the role played in this country by the Bangladeshi origin Engineers and Architects said that if we could combine our efforts with that of the promise and skills of these engineers it would not be impossible to implement our dreams for elevation of Bangladesh to a middle income country soon. He also referred to the instances where...
Bangladeshi people demonstrated their merits. He stated that if we could work unitedly only then Bangladesh would prosper. Acknowledging the impact in Bangladesh economy of large amount of remittances sent by the expatriate community, he insisted them to invest more in various prospective sectors of Bangladesh. Referring to the need for mutual cooperation in achieving greater welfare for the people of Bangladesh, he advised all expatriate Bangladeshis to create and maintain close network amongst them. In this connection, he mentioned that Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC was working to establish a database of Bangladeshi origin academics, professionals, businessmen, journalists in USA and requested them to co-operate the Embassy in its effort.

Ambassador Kabir was awarded by AABEA with a crest for his commitment to the service of the country. During the programme, the new executive committee of BAAEA, New York chapter was installed and a cultural event was arranged to mark the occasion. Presided over by Mr. Enam Haq, President of the Executive Committee, the programme was attended by Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque, Consul General of Bangladesh in New York and a large number of professionals and community activists.

NRBs can play important role in promoting our national interest: Ambassador Kabir

Bangladesh expatriate community in the United States can help Bangladesh to catch up with the new global knowledge and economic order. They can also contribute with money and merit to stand by their brothers and sisters in Bangladesh during all their needs. Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States M. Humayun Kabir said this while he was speaking at a programme organized on 26 April 2008 by the Bangladesh Association of Connecticut in Norwalk to celebrate the Independence Day 2008 and Bengali New Year 1415. During the program, a new Executive Committee of the Association was also installed for 2008-09. Citing the enormous sacrifice the people of Bangladesh had to make to get an independent country, Ambassador Kabir also underscored the need to make the new generation aware of the supreme sacrifice that their predecessors made for securing a free homeland. Referring to the support, the Embassy and the Bangladesh government are receiving from the NRBs during our hour of need, he said that NRBs might also play the representational role to help promote our various national interests including introduction of Bangladeshi culture and heritage to the mainstream US society and to connect Bangladesh to the global mainstream.

The Bangladesh Ambassador sought the cooperation of the community in garnering support from their local Congressmen and Senators on various issues relating to Bangladesh. He advised the community leaders to keep regular contact with the offices of their local representatives so that they can be reached easily during the time of Bangladesh’s need. He also assured the members of the community that Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC and its Consulate in New York fully recognize the value that the community members can create for Bangladesh and hence will come forward in every possible way to cater to the needs of the Non-Resident Bangladeshis living in the US.

Chaired by Mr. Helal U. Karim, President of the Association, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Editor of New York based weekly ‘Bangla Patrika’ and Mr. Morshed, a New York based mainstream political activist also spoke on the occasion. A colourful cultural show followed the discussion program later in the evening. A good number of community members were present during the program.
Bangladeshi Artifacts reveal rich history of craftsmanship

Archaeological studies on semi-precious stone beads and other artefacts found in Wari-Bateshwar indicate people of this land have a rich history of craftsmanship as old as around 2,500 years. The site is about 75km from Dhaka situated near the Wari and Bateshwar villages in the Belabo Upazila of Narsingdi District. It was discovered in the early 1930s by a local school teacher, Hanif Pathan. However, formal excavation started only recently in 2000. The current scientific study is being carried out by a team from the Archaeology Department of Jahangirnagar University led by Professor Sufi Mostafizur Rahman.

Artefacts found during excavation include stone beads, silver punch-marked coins, Rouletted and Knobbed Wear, silver punch-marked coins of pre-Mauryan period, road, and recent discovery of a unique brick-built structure.

Plenty of semi-precious stone beads are found and unearthed from Wari-Bateshwar and some of those are even identical to the artefacts found in Southeast Asia and other parts in the Indian subcontinent. This suggests that the place was a rich trade centre, which was also one of the second earliest urbanisation sites in the subcontinent.

Archeologists observe that abundance of beads as found over the years, their varieties, uniqueness of designs, and technical excellence in producing those subsequently lead to assume that the beads were produced locally and there was a rich production centre or industry there. The rate of the beads found in the area suggests that the place used to produce those and it was also a rich trade centre.

Such is the opinion of Prof Dilip Kumar Chakrabarti, noted Indian archaeologist and head of south Asian archaeology, Cambridge University, who says in the book Ancient Bangladesh that Wari-Bateshwar is the Sounagora emporium described by Ptolemy in 2nd century AD.

The stone beads found in Wari-Bateshwar are of seven types -- Agate, Amethyst, Carnelian, Chalcedony, Quartz, Jasper and Garnet. Raw materials required to make these beads were not found in Bangladesh and must have been imported from abroad -- a fact further indicates the place had trade relations with other nations.

The beads are varied in shapes, some containing 24 triangles in a single small piece, while some others are shaped as round, square, pentagon, rectangular, hexagonal, flat, egg, orange, ring, angular, cylinder, barrel and half-round.

Excavation also discovered different types of stones that seem to be the raw materials of the beads, chips and flakes, by-products from stone beads production, and imperforated stone beads, which seem to be unfinished products, indicating separate stages of production.

The archaeologists however could not confirm the technology used in producing the beads. They assume that the etched beads were designed through chemical process, while on the context of subcontinent the beads were most probably perforated using Diamond Tip.

As beads production was expensive and labour and time consuming, it seemed to be consumed only by
local rich people, while the rest might have been exported.

The archaeologists explain that the structure of the beads, their balanced cuts, highly polished finishing and delicate perforation bear the testimony to an excellent production technology and makers' excellence in geometry, mathematics and aesthetics.

The etched beads unearthed in Wari-Bateshwar are identical to the etched beads found from Early Historic archaeology sites in Thailand. The bead production places found in other Early Historic India include Ujjane, Baishali and Mahujari.

Beads were most probably used as ornaments, or as an amulet for protection from the evil. A number of amulets were found from Wari-Bateshwar in different designs. The stones used in making the beads had historical, cultural, and religious significance.

Except Wari-Bateshwar, existence of beads was also traced in other archaeological sites of Early Historic period like Mahastangarh of Bangladesh, Taxila of Pakistan, Rajghat and Chandraketugarh of India. Discovery of beads and existence of production centre lead to the assumption that urbanisation took place at this place, according to archaeologists.

**Five Bangladeshi photographers win international awards**

Five Bangladeshi photographers have won prestigious awards in the world’s leading photojournalism contest in the United States of America recently. The National Press Photographers’ Association of America (NPPA) awarded the photographers, Andrew Biraj, Abir Abdullah, Pavel Rahman, Farzana Khan Godhuluy and Monem Wasif for their respective works for this year.

Andrew Biraj, staff photojournalist of New Age, achieved the first prize in the category of ‘Environmental Picture Story’. The theme of his photo-story was ‘Living with Water’. He presented people’s struggle with water during floods in Bangladesh. Another photographer Munem Wasif earned honourable mention in this category of competition. Photographer Abir Abdullah, who has been working in the Bangladesh Bureau of European Press Photo Agency, won the best prize in the section of ‘Natural Disaster’. Pavel Rahman, of Associate Press in Bangladesh and Farzana Khan Godhuluy of Agency France-Presse in Bangladesh, have earned second and third prizes respectively in this category.

The competition is mostly dominated by Western, particularly the US photographers. As in the previous years, the Association arranged a worldwide competition under the title of ‘Best of Photojournalism’. More than eight thousand photojournalists across the world took part in the competition and submitted about forty thousand photographs.

**Dhaka to rank 4th among largest cities by 2025**

Dhaka, now ranking 15th with 11.9 million people, will be the fourth largest city in the world by 2025 when the population would reach 22 million, predicted Forbes.com.

The number of urban dwellers is expected to hit 5 billion globally by 2025 — double the number of 1990, according to studies by the World Resource Institute.

Out of the top 10 cities, five would be located in South Asia. ‘Asia and Latin America, each cluttered with rural workers looking for better jobs and housing in the city, are slated to have nine of the world’s 10 most populous cities by 2025,’ said the Forbes.com.

The other cities are Tokyo, Mumbai, New Delhi, Sao Paolo, Mexico City, New York, Kolkata, Shanghai and Karachi. Thirty-three cities would have population over 8 million by 2025 up from 21 in 1990 and only 2 in 1950, the World Resource Institute said.
Bangladesh Embassy participated in Exhibition in Pennsylvania

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC participated in the World Trade Center exhibition and Conference held on April 29, 2008 at Radisson Penn Harris, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. Commercial Counsellor Kazi shamsul Alam represented the country at the embassy roundtable on the business opportunity in Bangladesh. He mentioned about the opportunities in doing business in Bangladesh. He stated that Bangladesh is a growing economy with 150 million people and its GDP has grown at a rate of 6.5% for the last few years. Bangladesh’s export was 12 bn dollar during the last financial year and growing fast which justified its inclusion in the next eleven group by Goldman Sachs after Brazil, Russia, India, China.

He further mentioned that Bangladesh has substantial natural gas and coal reserve. Chevron & other foreign companies are involved in natural gas extraction in Bangladesh. Natural gas is being used for power generation, fertilizer production and many other industrial activities. Foreign companies are welcome to participate in natural gas exploration in Bangladesh. US Companies may also consider investing in coal mines in Bangladesh and thereby cater to its huge energy market. Because rapid industrialization is creating huge demand for energy, foreign companies are already competing to gain access into Bangladesh’s lucrative energy market.

Bangladesh is one of the cheapest source of apparel in the world. In 2007, Bangladesh exported 9 billion dollar worth of apparel. But most of the fabric for the apparel industry is imported from outside. This provides an window of opportunity for the American companies to invest in the ever growing textile and apparel market in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is also a major Shrimp exporting country. Likewise their European counterparts, the US importers also consider Bangladesh a reliable source of Shrimp and frozen fish. As Bangladesh is connected by Road, Rail & River to India, US companies can easily base their operation in Bangladesh to cater to billion people market in India.

IT sector is one of the promising sectors in Bangladesh. It has an abundant supply of IT professionals with English speaking ability. US IT companies may look into Bangladesh for outsourcing. Highlighting government’s host of recent decision to make IT market accessible to all, Mr.Alam urged US companies to visit Bangladesh to see for themselves the potential of this virtually untapped outsourcing market in Bangladesh. (Please see following page for more information on the coming opportunites in the IT field in Bangladesh.)

Commercial Counselor had a discussion with a number of US company officials on business prospect in Bangladesh.

Top executives of American companies and their joint-ventures in India said on 03 April 2008 in Dhaka that Bangladesh was more lucrative than India for investment if incentives and necessary facilities offered to foreign companies in Bangladesh’s EPZs are considered.

They observed that US companies, doing business in India, might rush to Bangladesh to reap investment opportunities but Bangladeshi stakeholders need to
enhance communications with such potential investors.

‘Investors in Bangladesh’s EPZs get so much incentives and benefits which are not available in India’ said Gulshan K Sachdev, who led a visiting Indian delegation at a meeting with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Sachdev, who is chairman of the American Chamber India’s Kolkata chapter, said some 530 US companies or US-India joint ventures were eying to expand their activities in South Asia.

‘Our primary objectives, in this visit, which is the first in a series of many more that will take place in future, is to get a first hand overview of the Bangladesh economy, its growth prospects,’ said Sachdev, who is also the CEO of US-based Quaker Chemicals Corporation.

He pointed out that IT, telecom, energy, consumer goods manufacturing and many other sectors in Bangladesh could be identified by AmCham India members investing in Bangladesh.

Source: -New Age, 04 April 2008

Bangladesh enters global ship building market

A local company, Meghna Ship Builders and Dockyard, decided to set up a $40 million facility to build ocean-going vessels. It will sign an agreement to this effect today with South Korea’s STX Shipbuilding Company Ltd to build the shipyard at Meghnaghat in Narayanganj, the Daily Star reported.

The Meghna Group of Industries will invest in ship building and dockyard industries in the country, targeting rapid growing small ship building market of the world around $400 billion. A deal was signed between Meghna Ship Builders and Dockyard Limited and the STX Heavy Industries Company Limited of South Korea in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh makes inroads into call center business

The country's telecom watchdog has formally invited applications from eligible entrepreneurs for license to establish call centres. Any individual or enterprise, both local and foreign, can apply for establishing call centre, either individually or in joint venture, with a payment of Tk 5,000 in favor of Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

BTRC officials said the commission has not set any deadline for submitting application. The BTRC has restricted foreign equity to a maximum of 45 percent in case of joint venture Call Centre projects. The BTRC will provide license for individuals or companies under two types — hosted call centre and hosted call centre services.

A call centre is an office where a company's inbound calls are received, or outbound calls are made. Call centres have become increasingly popular in a world, where many companies have centralized their customer support functions.

Some 3,000 interested individuals attended a 'public hearing', organized by BTRC last month on call centre, and expressed their interest to set up call centres in Bangladesh, BTRC sources said. The proposed call centres will not only receive subscribers’ calls, it will also provide data and information processing services.

Information technology experts in Dhaka expects that there are scope for earning huge foreign exchange from call centres as the global market for shared services is likely to grow to $1.43 trillion by the end of 2009 from the present $1,000 billion. They hoped that with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission taking the initiative to give licenses for call centres from April 7, an estimated 200 call centres are going to be set up within the current year. For more information, please visit www.btrc.gov.bd.

Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industries shining with International orders

Bangladesh’s Domestic pharmaceutical companies including Square Pharmaceuticals and Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd have slowly made inroads into the lucrative business of contract manufacturing of bulk drugs and formulations for global clients. At least four top companies are eyeing exports of about $10 million this year through contract manufacturing deals with European pharma majors.

Low labour and power costs, depreciation of the US dollar against most currencies and comparative
advantages for Bangladesh under the WTO's agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights have inspired many global pharma giants to set up their contract manufacturing base in the country, industry experts said.

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, a leading pharma company, has signed agreements with two UK-based companies to manufacture their brands of cardiac, diabetic and hormone products. The company is also negotiating contract manufacturing deals with a German and a Dutch company. They are expecting that its overall export will reach around $5 million with the new deals of contract manufacturing this year, five times more than that of the last year.

Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd, the market-leader in Bangladesh, executed contract manufacturing deals worth $ 1.5 million with two British companies last year. It was the first company to receive the MHRA accreditation in May 2007.

Another fast growing company Incepta Pharmaceuticals has also got manufacturing contracts from a German company and has initiated negotiations with two other German firms to supply diabetic and hypertension products to the German company and they are hopeful that our annual export through contract manufacturing will cross $2 million in 2008. The company has received accreditation from The European Medicines Agency and already has a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) Certificate of Europe.

Renata Limited has also started exporting its pharmaceutical products to Hong Kong and Jordan. The shipment to Hong Kong consists of hormones, antihistamine, antifungal and cardiovascular products. The export to Jordan includes veterinary products. It comprises anti-infective, metabolic supplements, vitamins and electrolyte preparations. Renata's products are also registered in Sri Lanka, Philippines, Vietnam and Myanmar.

Pharmaceuticals manufacturing opportunities in Bangladesh are brighter than ever because of the country's Least Developed Country (LDC) status until 2016. This is a win-win situation for both Bangladesh and foreign pharmaceutical or investment companies because investors/companies will get high return on their investment and this will create high paid jobs in Bangladesh.


---

238 per cent growth in FDI in the EPZs

The country's eight Export Processing Zones have set a new target in signing investment deals worth $1.5 billion in 2008 after a record 238 per cent growth in agreement in the first quarter. In January-March, the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority signed investment deals worth $437.89 million with foreign and local companies, which was $129.494 million during the same period last year, the Financial Express reported. With weaker dollar, low labour costs and easy access to markets in Asia encouraging foreign manufacturers. Agreements have been reached for more than USD$300 million worth of foreign investment in the EPZs since the beginning of the year, the Daily Star reported.

BIMAN signs deal with BOEING for eight aircrafts

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited, in a bid to procure eight new generation brand new aircraft signed a Definitive Agreement deal on 22 April 2008 with the US aircraft manufacturer, the Boeing Aircraft Company at $1.265 billion (TK 8,728 crore). The deal also includes an option on the purchasing rights of buying another four aircraft. Earlier, a MoU was signed on March 15, 2008 to pave the way for the deal under which the airline will purchase four each of Boeing 777-300 ER and Boeing 787-8, newspapers reported.

Investment news

Mittal to invest US$1.5 billion in Chittagong

UK-based industrial group Mittal delegates have held talks with Bangladesh government to discuss the proposed plan to develop a $1.5 billion coastal township in Chittagong, a local representative of the Mittal said on 13 April 2008.

The delegates while meeting with Housing and Public Works Adviser Major General (retd) Golam Quader and Commerce Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman at their respective offices expressed their keen interests to go ahead with the plan that includes residential and industrial blocks along the Bay of Bengal.

The $1.5 billion township investment plan has been taken as part of Mittal's last year's investment plan for power, energy and infrastructure projects, he said. A composite township can be developed conforming to
the coastal belt development guidelines of the CMPP along the coast stretching from Patenga to Kumira under the Sitakunda district. CDA sources said the coastal township could accommodate waterfront residential blocks, environment-friendly industries, industrial blocks, an airstrip, and shallow-port facilities besides hotel and cruising facilities.

**TATA resumes investment discussion**

India's industrial giant, Tata Group, expected resumption of talks on implementation of the proposed $3 billion investment in the steel, fertilizer, power and coal-mining sectors in Bangladesh with the government as soon as possible. Tata's Bangladesh project director, Syed Manzer Hussain, expressed renewed optimism after he made a courtesy call on the Commerce Adviser Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman in Dhaka on 29 April 2008.

**Belgian company to invest $2m in Dhaka EPZ**

A Belgian company, M/s Satexco Limited, will set up a security clothing industry in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone. This 100 per cent foreign owned company will invest $2 million and will produce the security clothing. An agreement to this effect was signed between the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and the M/s Satexco Limited in the BEPZA Complex in the Dhaka city on 02 April 2008. The general manager (investment promotion) of BEPZA and the country director of M/s Satexco Limited inked the lease agreement on behalf of their respective organisations. The new investment will create employment opportunity for 250 Bangladeshi nationals.

**Japanese Uniglo eyes in Bangladesh**

A local fabric producer, Shasha Denims, has successfully developed better and durable denim woven from blended yarns of jute and cotton. It was inspired by the top Japanese apparel retailer, Uniglo, which intends to procure a huge quantity of apparels made of jute denim from Bangladesh.

**Gulf business group RAK will invest $800 mn in Bangladesh**

Leading Gulf business group RAK will invest $800 million to set up two special economic zones in partnership with the government. The company will make the investment in the country's two new Export Processing Zones at Munshiganj and Feni by October this year, the Financial Express reported.

**Pakistani company to invest in knit composite**

Pakistani company, Majum Knit Limited, will set up a Knit Composite Industry with an outlay of $3.1 million in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone, the Daily Star reported.

**Hot Rolled Steel plant in Bangladesh:**

A consortium of four steel companies S Alam, PHP, KDS and Abul Khair signed a MoU with India's $2.2 billion (TK 15400 crore) Essar Group to set up the country's first hot-rolled steel plant.

**Bangladesh-Jordan joint venture**

A local company, M/S Mars Apparels Ltd., and a Bangladesh-Jordan joint venture company, Orchid Towels Ltd., will set up apparel and a textile manufacturing industries at Karnaphuli Export Professing Zone (KEPZ) by investing $12.30 million, the New Age reported.
Bangladeshi scientist’s discovery will lead to production of an effective antidote

Dr. Ashraf Ahmed, Principal investigator from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), discovered a highly efficient inhibitor of botulinum neurotoxin type A, the most potent of seven neurotoxins produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory. Botulinum neurotoxin is responsible for the deadly food poisoning disease botulism and for the beneficial effects of smoothing out facial wrinkles can also be used as a dreaded biological weapon. When ingested or inhaled, less than a billionth of an ounce can cause muscle paralysis and eventual death. This finding by Dr. Ahmed can lead to a very effective drug to stop the devastating effects of the toxin for therapeutic use. Dr. Ahmed earlier initiated the structure-based inhibitor design as part of the institute’s bio-defense research program. The finding was picked up widely by the US main-stream media and available in the April issue of the prestigious ‘Journal of Biological Chemistry’.

Dr. Ahmed, a local resident of North Potomac, Maryland, is a senior scientist at Dept. of Molecular Biology, USAMRIID, Fort Detrick, Maryland, USA, previously served as a lecturer of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Dhaka, and is one of the founder members of the Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka.

Bangladesh Embassy extends warmest congratulations to Dr. Ashraf Ahmed for this remarkable achievement.

LCD TV assembling plant to be set up in Bangladesh

Rangs Electronics Limited (REL), a local electronics company, will set up a liquid crystal display (LCD) TV assembling Plant, the first of its kind in Bangladesh. Rangs is the official agent of Sony Corporation in Japan. Sony will transfer technology directly from Japan for the plant, according to Tanver Ahmed, the local company's marketing manager. REL will set up its plant on 30,000 square feet of land at Tejgaon industrial area in Dhaka.

The company, which will initially assemble 200 pieces of LCD televisions a day, hopes to fulfill the local requirement as it plans raising its capacity by assembling 300 pieces in phases. The company also eyes to explore export market as the technology is gaining popularity worldwide. It thinks that cheap labour and other facilities will help the REL to be more competitive with the neighbouring countries in the electronics market.

At present, there are 30 different factories in the country that assemble television, freeze and many other home appliances based on technologies of Japan and some other countries, said Akther Hossain, chairman and managing director of Rangs Electronics Limited. He said the factories invested around Tk 5,000 crore in the sector and more or less 10,000 people are directly employed in the industry.
Celebration of Bangla Nababarsha 1415 at the Embassy

If you need any further information or have any suggestions or if you do not wish to receive this web journal, please email: webjournal@bangladoot.org or drmonwar@yahoo.com

Disclaimer: The compilation of this journal is based on the news and views from different sources. This publication is for public information purposes only.